

The Heritage Left by Dr. Park Lewis
*Essays by E. Haque, L. Carris, E. Alger, and
C. Franchet*

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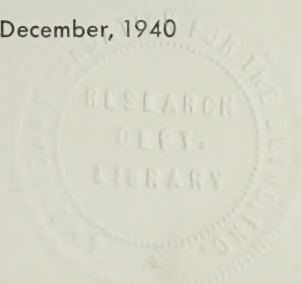
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The Heritage Left to Coming Generations by Dr. Park Lewis—

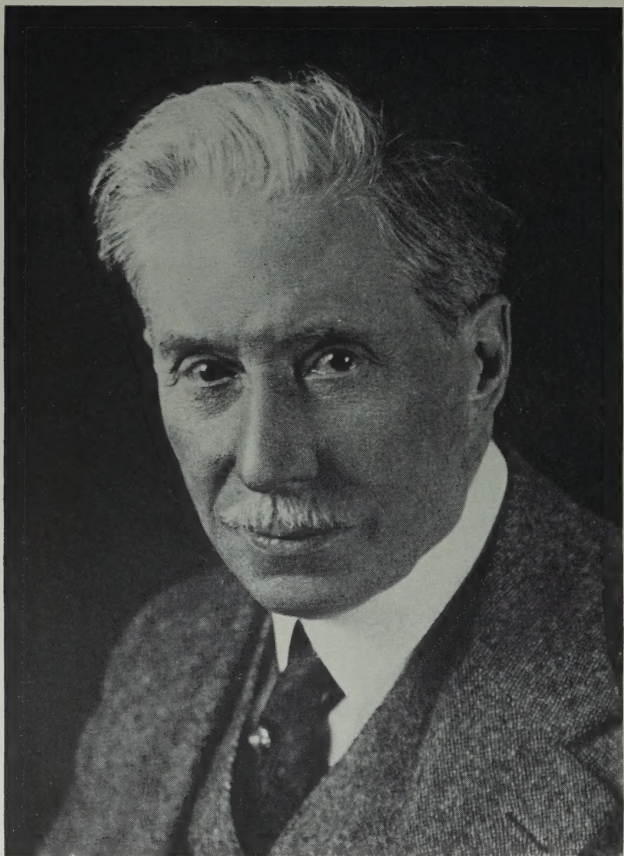
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Supplement

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PARK LEWIS, 1855-1940

A friend of humanity, a founder of the lay movement for prevention of blindness, an internationalist, an ophthalmologist. "If you would seek his monument, look about you."



Dr. Park Lewis as an Ophthalmologist

Elliott B. Hague, M.D.

IN PAYING my sincere respect to the memory of Dr. Park Lewis, the ophthalmologist, I feel that I must first speak of Dr. Park Lewis as a man. I humbly acknowledge the privilege and opportunity of our close association, and rather regard him as a guiding light in the field of his endeavor.

He brings to the younger ophthalmologist a realization of and appreciation for the profound changes that have come to this field of medicine in the last eighty years. We recall that Helmholtz gave us the ophthalmoscope in 1851, and Carl Koller paved the way to painless surgery in 1884. It must augur well to the future of our science that so much of it, as we know it today, has come about in the life span of Dr. Lewis, and of men whom he knew well and vividly recalled, with his ability to recreate personalities of this previous ophthalmic generation.

For instance, he clearly remembered the details of his meeting with the great von Arlt, who was a preceptor of von Graefe, and one of the original editors of von Graefe's *Archives*, with Donders. We regard Donders and von Graefe, and their friend, the contemporary Bowman, as having laid the broad foundations of our special art, and we feel that the close association of these men did much to further their individual achievements.

Dr. Lewis enjoyed the distinction of acquaintance and friendship with many notables, and it was his ability to perceive the underlying importance of various phases of ophthalmic advance, and his gift of making complicated problems clear and lucid, that constitute some of his contributions to modern medicine.

Dr. Lewis enjoyed extra experiences in living because he himself was a founder of things worth while. He enjoyed life keenly and found great satisfaction in his ability to help others to see. I am sure that those who knew him realized that he was able to bestow the gift of insight and the spiritual values, as well as, on many occasions, physical sight.

In the field of ophthalmic practice, Dr. Lewis was, as I knew him, a man of unusual resource. He once told me the story of an intern working in a hospital clinic who remarked to his superior that it was strange that so many unusual cases came in on the day that he received, while other days brought only routine cases.

I think that this story might be applied to Dr. Lewis. He was capable of finding something interesting in every contact. I wonder whether this does not explain why we are all so proud of having had an acquaintance with Dr. Park Lewis.

Dr. Park Lewis as an Internationalist

Lewis H. Carris

AS FAR back as the early part of this century, if not in the last century, Dr. Park Lewis made journeys to various European countries to meet with ophthalmological societies, and to advance his knowledge of the care of the eye. These journeys were interrupted by the World War, but in 1924 he went to the Oxford Congress, which was held in England. It was a Congress of the English-speaking ophthalmologists, for it was so soon after the war that the international meetings of ophthalmologists had not yet been resumed. At this Congress Dr. Lewis made a most earnest plea for the co-operation of nations for prevention of blindness.

Soon after that we began to consider what this Society could do in the way of leadership in arousing in the various countries an interest in prevention of blindness, and in the eventual organization of an international society. There was a lot of groundwork to be done, and several members of the Society's staff were called upon to do the preliminary studies. In all of these efforts Dr. Lewis was an inspiration and a guiding force.

By 1929, when the International Ophthalmological Congress met in Scheveningen, Holland, it seemed an auspicious time to propose the formation of an international society for prevention of blindness. Following the Congress, therefore, enough delegates from a number of countries remained over to form the International Association for Prevention of Blindness, and to draw up a basic program.

I wish I could reproduce some of the conversations that Dr. Lewis had with the various delegates to the Congress from all parts of the world. There was still, in 1929, a most bitter feeling between the warring factions of Europe. Yet Dr. Lewis had his own individual, warm, personal friends on all sides and in all countries. It was through his influence that a united front was presented, at that time, in this international health and welfare organization in which were joined representatives from Argentine, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Chile, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Palestine, Poland, Rumania, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, United States, Uruguay, Yugoslavia. It is not surprising that Dr. Lewis was elected vice-president of the newly formed Association.

From the beginning, Dr. Lewis sustained his interest in the program of the International Association, both in professional participation and in financial support. In 1931, he attended the International Association for Prevention of Blindness meeting in Paris. In 1933, he attended the meeting in Madrid, which was also the occasion of the Ophthalmological Congress. In 1934, he journeyed again to Paris, and at that time presented the Leslie Dana Medal to Dr. de Lapersonne, president of the International Association, and a very warm friend of Dr. Lewis.

In 1935, he journeyed to London for a meeting of the International Association for Prevention of Blindness, and I might interpolate a personal story here. Dr. Lewis was always anxious to see and to hear. It happened that we were in London on a Sunday, with no business to do. He suggested a walk around Hyde Park and to various places in London. I accepted. Dr. Lewis, who was quite a few years older than I, walked so that I almost had to go into a dogtrot. I said, "I'm not going to give up." I walked with him, and may I tell you that the next morning I stayed in bed, and he was fresh as a daisy, up and about his work!

Although Dr. Lewis did not attend the international meeting in 1936, at the request of the International Association he sent a paper which was read there.

That brings us down to 1937. Dr. Lewis, with his daughter, Dorothea Park Lewis, journeyed to Egypt to attend the Interna-

tional Congress of Ophthalmologists again. He gave one of the welcoming addresses there, at the opening of the Congress, and was received with acclaim. Again there is another personal note—I am sure those of you who knew Dr. Lewis know how instinctively he did the correct thing on every occasion. It seems on this trip, the baggage had been held back by customs authorities somewhere, and that very evening Dr. Lewis, as American representative with some other delegates, was to meet King Farouk. Dr. Lewis did not hesitate a moment. He went down to the shopping district of Cairo, and that night he appeared in the proper “white tie”—according to the dictates of custom—and was introduced to the King of Egypt.

During the meeting in Cairo, Dr. Lewis read a paper which had great influence among the delegates from many countries. There again I had occasion to see the warm friendship which existed between him and the representatives from Turkey, from India, from China, from Japan, from many South American countries, and from all over the world.

In 1939, he again went to London to attend the meeting of the International Association, and at that time he received a gold medal from the Association in recognition of his services in international prevention of blindness.

Of course, unfortunately, the work which he and those associated with him had built up so carefully has now been suspended in Europe because of the war. Yet, Dr. Lewis' international work is now being carried on by a Pan-American Committee for the Prevention of Blindness; and we know that when peace comes once again to this world and international work can be resumed, Dr. Lewis' name will rank high.

In closing, I want to present two or three selections I have made from his talks at one time or another. At the meeting in Cairo, Dr. Lewis said:

“An organized movement for the prevention of blindness is new. It belongs to the twentieth century and is yet in its incipency. A skeleton has been constructed. It needs to be filled with vital organs and covered with the co-ordinated musculature to become a living and useful thing. In principle, it is scientific, and in purpose, it is helpful and constructive.

"It is a movement that can be initiated only by ophthalmologists to whom facts concerning it are known. It can be effectively executed only by the combined efforts of the medical profession, of sanitarians, and of society, with the co-operation of the governments which they represent. It opens up possibilities by raising the living standards of the undernourished, thereby making them assets, rather than liabilities, in the communities in which they live.

"Such efforts tend to improve the economic conditions and to make a satisfied and contented people, and to take away one of the chief incentives that bring about wars. It is eminently proper, therefore, that it should receive the consideration of a Congress such as this.

"We, from many nations, each through our own people, have the ears of the world; by our united efforts, may not our influence be felt by those in power so that, seeking the uplift of humanity, we may help not only in preserving the physical sight of our people, but that we may also aid in giving an enlargement to their mental vision, hastening the day prophesied by the great French poet, when 'one day, before long, the seven nations which combine in themselves the whole of humanity, will join together and amalgamate, like the seven colors of the prism, in a radiant, celestial arch. The marvel of peace will appear eternal and visible above civilization, and the world, dazzled, will contemplate the immense rainbow of the united people of Europe.'"

Again, he said: "Medicine and science have no boundaries, and so close are our means of communication today, so interdependent are nations one with the other, that what happens in India or China or Russia or Japan today influences the life and activities of those of us in the United States."

Dr. Lewis gave much serious and careful consideration to the larger welfares of mankind, to world welfare, if I may use that phrase, and there never was a meeting he attended at which he did not talk with people, other than those who were delegates to the convention, about the possibilities of promoting peace among nations. Just as late as December, 1939, Dr. Park Lewis wrote a long and fine letter to the *New York Times*, which was published. I can give you only a couple of paragraphs from that, but it is worth our reading and re-reading to get Dr. Lewis' international point of view.

"We may hope to get the co-operation of our neighbors only when we approach them without hostility in our hearts. There should be a cessation of shaking of fists, and an attempt at the shaking of hands. Let us as friends reason together. Let us, as a preliminary, lay aside pride and prejudice, two of the greatest obstacles to satisfactory progress. Let us remember that distorted views exist in Europe and Asia concerning us in America, just as the war horrors and enmities have overshadowed and obliterated the lovelier and friendlier things that have come to us through the hands of Carl Schurz and Lafayette.

"Cease to make the seaports fortresses, and half the causes of war, the jealousies, the rivalries, the ambitions, would be eliminated. This must ultimately come. Why not now, rather than later? Does this seem to be a fanciful program? See how quickly the people of Europe, of Asia, of America, will respond to it! Peace may be bought, with the horrors of war averted, by the sacrifice of pride, prejudice, and possessions. We should get in return prosperity, progress, and peace.

"May not we, the richest and the least involved of all great nations, take priority in proposing a plan? Such a plan is merely suggested, but might not one be proposed which the contending powers might be willing to consider?"

Dr. Park Lewis has left us, but his spirit abides with us and will influence oncoming generations without number. The doctrine which he preached will be increasingly realized. I hope that many of us will live to see the time when his concepts will be a reality.

Dr. Park Lewis—A Founder of the Lay Movement for Prevention of Blindness

Ellice M. Alger, M.D.

ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1940, there died Dr. F. Park Lewis, a founder of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness and its vice-president since the beginning. He was eighty-five years old.

When a beloved friend dies we instinctively take refuge in philosophy and try to reason ourselves out of our sorrow. We perhaps

say that he was lonely and old and infirm, that his life was lived and its zest gone. We speak of death itself not as a tragedy but as "kindly," as "inevitable," as a "release."

But it is hard to be philosophic about Park Lewis. To be sure he was old in years, but he never seemed old or infirm, and his zest was as keen as ever. He had lived a very happy life, surrounded by a devoted family and a host of appreciative friends. He had lived, too, a singularly useful and successful life. He was one of the outstanding citizens of his home community, one of the outstanding ophthalmologists of his country, with a world-wide reputation in his profession. He probably did more to further the prevention of blindness movement than any man of his time—perhaps of any time.

Nor had he outlived his usefulness. He was still young in spirit, without any apparent mental dimming, and with a keen and active interest in human life and its problems. There were still things he could do better than anyone else and up to the day of his death he was busily trying to do them.

There is said to be no such thing as an indispensable man, but we can truly say that right now we cannot fill Dr. Lewis' place either in our affections or in our work.

Dr. Lewis was born in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1855. His great grandfather was a citizen of New Jersey whose loyalty to the Crown, at the outbreak of our Revolution, led him to migrate to Canada; but his father moved back to the United States and settled in Buffalo when Park was five years old. There in its public schools he received his early education, which seems to have been completed when he was eighteen years old, and there he spent his whole life. It speaks volumes for the quality of both ancestry and education that in so short a time he could have laid the foundation for so much poise and culture and character.

There were practically only three professions open to the young man of his day: the ministry, the law, and medicine, and he very early decided to be a physician. Medicine was still an art with very little scientific foundation. The country was full of medical schools which sprang up in almost every town which had physicians enough to make up a faculty. The student attended a six-month course of lectures and, if he wished to be specially prepared, heard

the same lectures the second year. He dissected a little and read the few text-books. He saw a few patients, if the institution had a hospital, or he rode with some older physician on his rounds. The state made no effort to regulate his qualifications, and his sheepskin authorized him to do anything he felt himself capable of doing.

Dr. Lewis received his degree at Pulte Medical College in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1876, when he was only twenty-one years old, and he immediately located in Buffalo. As he intended to be an eye physician, he took a course at the New York Ophthalmic Institute under Dr. Herman Knapp, whom he was to accompany a few years later on his first trip abroad, and under whose auspices he visited the clinics and met the great teachers of Vienna, Paris and London. Meantime, the next year he received a degree in ophthalmology from the New York Ophthalmic Hospital, and returned to Buffalo to practice. By our modern standards his training left something to be desired, although it was far better than that of most of his colleagues. But he had a good mind, a keen observation, and tremendous industry. He read widely. He wrote well. All his spare time was spent with tutors of one sort or another. To the day of his death he kept learning and collecting and evaluating knowledge. He never did become intellectually old or rigid or indifferent. Year after year he spent his vacations abroad. He got to know most of the capitals of Europe, with their people. He acquired a working knowledge of five languages. He knew the great men and the institutions of his specialty, and had as wide an acquaintance as any man of his time.

He was an honorary member and correspondent of numerous foreign medical societies and to the day of his death he translated articles from the French, the German, the Spanish and the Italian for American journals.

A man with his personal charm and professional skill naturally achieved a wide success in his own community and his services were enlisted in every good cause, not only as a physician but as a citizen. He was always at the call of the impecunious among the artists and the writers, who interested and stimulated him greatly. In addition to a large practice he taught in the local medical school, that his successors might have a sounder foundation than his own. He lectured extensively, both to his fellow physicians and to lay-

men. He wrote an unbelievable number of papers for medical societies. He was for years one of the editors of the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*. He wrote articles for the newspapers on all sorts of social and educational topics and even made many acceptable contributions in verse. He knew and loved the literature and the music and the art of many nations, and was a welcome and a gracious figure wherever he might be. He had great social gifts, for he liked and understood people and had a kindly spontaneous humor, with always an apt quotation or an illustrative story. This is no place to catalogue the many honors that came to him, both in his profession and as a citizen, but there was never a one that he seemed to seek for himself or of which he made any ostentatious display. Perhaps the one he prized most might have been the Chancellor's Medal of the University of Buffalo, awarded each year to some citizen especially worthy of community recognition and esteem. He was one of the first to be awarded the Leslie Dana Medal for distinguished work in the prevention of blindness, and no one ever deserved it more.

This was, of course, the work which was of most interest to us, as it was to him, not because it was necessarily his greatest, but because it was best known and so close to his own heart.

When he first located in Buffalo he served, like other physicians, on the staffs of various hospitals and clinics. These became not merely places where he could acquire operative skill and advance the scientific side of his profession but where he could lighten the troubles of the poor and the unfortunate.

He was appointed by Governor Flower a member of the Board of the very large State School for the Blind at nearby Batavia. On this Board he remained for the rest of his life. For forty years he was its president, and one of its great buildings bears his name. As he looked over these assembled unfortunates, it was suddenly forced in upon him that a third of them were unnecessarily blind, that their tragic misfortunes might easily have been prevented entirely or controlled or cured if taken in time. From that moment prevention of blindness became one of his life interests.

Particularly was he impressed with the number of his charges who were blind because of ophthalmia neonatorum. Cr  d   had shown years before how easily it could be prevented, but he could

not reach the family physicians nor the midwives. Every school for the blind was full of its unfortunate victims, while there were numerous other diseases just as deadly and just as preventable.

None of this was altogether new. The great Fuchs had outlined the whole subject, from a professional point of view, in a prize essay on the prevention of blindness, written in his early youth. A copy of it was one of Dr. Lewis' treasures and now rests in the library of our Society. Another great Buffalo ophthalmologist, Dr. Lucien Howe, had preached in season and out of season on ophthalmia neonatorum and its prevention. The Holt sisters, Winifred and Edith, in New York had completed the first census of the blind in this state and on that foundation organized the New York Association for the Blind, the first of a chain of "lighthouses" that has been copied in all parts of the world. No one ever did more to focus public attention and sympathy on the blind and their needs.

The American Medical Association and the various state societies had sporadic committees which did all that could be done by volunteer workers without funds or facilities. Many states had lay commissions for the blind, though they were primarily devoted to education and support rather than prevention. But very little was being actually accomplished in preventing blindness, and educating the profession was apparently only the beginning. It occurred to Dr. Lewis that if the laity and especially the legislators could be convinced of the extent and significance of the problem, prevention of blindness could be grafted onto the growing body of public health laws and so make of public opinion a continuing force that would be even more effective than law itself. In 1903 Governor Hughes was led to appoint him the chairman of a legislative committee to study and report on prevention of blindness. Three years later he headed another similar committee.

One of these reports fell into the hands of Miss Louisa Schuyler, a masterful woman with a tender heart, an executive mind, and an inflexible will. In her younger years she had been a leading spirit in the Sanitary Commission, the Red Cross of our Civil War. She was a founder of the first training school for nurses at Bellevue Hospital and the great State Charities Aid Association. She had been interested in Miss Holt's work and was a member of a small committee on prevention of blindness at the "Lighthouse," but she

was horrified at a state of things, the extent of which she had not even suspected. She sent for Dr. Lewis.

They selected and gathered together a small group of interested people and worked out the scheme for an organization, which after several experimental starts was finally worked out on their basis. In their opinion, it must be an independent body and not a mere subordinate committee. It must be incorporated so that it could raise money and receive gifts. It must include ophthalmologists as members and advisers, but it must be essentially a lay organization which should transfer the prevention of blindness from the narrow field of ophthalmology to that of public health and social service, and welcome the membership and the help of anyone interested in its purpose, whether physician or nurse or teacher or engineer.

Thus, in 1908 was born the New York Committee for the Prevention of Blindness with Dr. Lewis as the inspiration and technical guide and Miss Schuyler as the organizer and chief motivating power. She knew everyone from the governor to the district leader. She was a power socially and financially. She got the Russell Sage Foundation, of which she was a director, to furnish an office in which was installed a permanent secretary and staff. With all these tokens of respectability and permanence the Rockefellers gave a grant of money over a period of years.

It seemed a pity to limit the organization to New York when a national one would be so much better, and so the New York State Committee became in 1915 the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, absorbing into it the defunct Association for the Conservation of Vision and with it Edward Van Cleve, a great educator of the blind, who became its wise and far-sighted executive director. There were, of course, many eager and enthusiastic members but these three were the pillars of the Society.

From the beginning Dr. Lewis was the National Society's vice-president (for it has been a tradition that the president should always be a layman). More than anyone else he has been its inspiration and its technical guide. Year after year he sacrificed his practice and his time to attend meetings of the board and he could always be counted on to represent the Society at home or abroad in his inimitable way. The Society made a wide popular appeal among all the so-called "social minded" groups. It grew

and grew. The rich and the not-so-rich began to leave it money in their wills, and increasing thousands of members made their annual contribution year after year, which has been its real support. It went safely through the great depression which proved so fatal to less wisely managed organizations. It broadened its field from ophthalmia neonatorum, which largely through its efforts has become a rare disease and a still rarer cause of blindness, to include anything which concerns in the broadest way the health or the efficiency or the comfort of the eyes. It attempts to interpret to the public the progress of ophthalmology and the kindred branches as fast as each step is proven to be a forward one, to be a clearing house for information, and to make people wisely conscious of their eyes. It co-operates eagerly with the growing number of groups whose fields border on or overlap our own.

In every one of these extensions Dr. Lewis was the warm supporter and adviser and often the actual innovator. During the last year or two of his life he was particularly interested in syphilis, congenital and acquired, and in glaucoma, which he recognized as one of the chief destroyers of sight, partly because it is such a treacherous foe, but largely because it is so often unrecognized until it is too late. Many of you will remember a recent editorial in the SIGHT-SAVING REVIEW urging this need.

Dr. Lewis was, as I have said, a much traveled citizen of the world and was profoundly depressed by the collapse of our modern civilization, which he foresaw long before it came. But he was comforted by his firm faith that science has no boundaries and men of science no politics. He was a firm believer in the value of international conferences. He realized that the numerous groups interested in prevention of blindness abroad were mostly physicians without popular following or financial support. Therefore in 1929 he was active in founding the International Association for Prevention of Blindness. To it he brought the strong support of the American groups whose purposes and methods, democratic though they be, he had hoped might be adapted to the European field. Year after year he attended its meetings. He was its vice-president to the day of his death, and at the meeting in London in 1939 he was awarded its gold medal.

There is in the floor of Westminster Abbey, if it still stands, a

marble slab inscribed with the name of its architect, Sir Christopher Wren, and carrying the inscription, "If you would seek his monument, look about you." Dr. Lewis would have been the first to deprecate the suggestion that he was the sole or even the principal architect of our Society, but I am sure that some such sentiment has occurred to every one of his colleagues on our Board who has seen this Society grow from its very tentative and tiny beginning to its useful and sturdy maturity under his inspiration and guidance.

Dr. Park Lewis—A Friend of Humanity

Charles Pascal Franchot

OF THE great achievements of Dr. Park Lewis and of the great honors bestowed upon him during his long and useful life, you have heard much from the previous speakers. I wish to dwell for a few minutes on the lesser known but just as important qualities and talents of this truly great man.

The Buffalo Association for the Blind summarized its tribute to Dr. Lewis as follows:

"He was a man of such simple dignity, yet of such greatness of character and learning, that we feel inadequate to express the love and devotion he inspired."

But even this tribute leaves untouched the vastness of his private philanthropy, the youthful enthusiasm with which he joined every worthwhile effort to make his city of Buffalo a better place in which to live, his extensive studies in history, his love of music, his penetrating and delicious sense of humor, his never dying eagerness to learn of new things. Above all, it leaves untouched the picture of the perfect father, the perfect husband, the perfect friend.

Of course, every worth-while professional man devotes a large amount of time to patients or clients who cannot afford to pay. In this Dr. Lewis was unusually prodigal. For upwards of sixty years his door was always open to the poor. Especially in the Italian

colony of Buffalo was he lavish in his gift of time, but he reaped a rich reward in the voluble but sincere expressions of gratitude. The Latin temperament showed itself in repeated and unusual evidences of appreciation—homemade wine at Christmas, a hand-crocheted bedspread that took three years to make, etc. It is astonishing that Dr. Lewis could give so much of himself in this way and at the same time give so largely of his time to the great national and international work of which my predecessors have spoken.

He used to tell with a twinkle in his eye of the young Italian bootblack sent to him by the manager of the Hotel Touraine. It was an exceptionally busy day in Dr. Lewis' office. A long row of patients were waiting in the anteroom. The Doctor had occasion to pass through the room and spied the youth sitting on the edge of his chair quite a distance from the head of the line. "I hope you aren't in too great a hurry," said the Doctor. "Well," replied the boy, "I'm losing money every minute."

He had among his charity patients an eighty-year-old man with a long white beard whom he had been treating for several years. When this patient learned one day that Dr. Lewis was about to go to Europe to deliver a lecture, he came to the doctor's office and said, "Why, Doctor, I can't let you go to Europe. What will happen to me? Why, Doctor, you've taken care of me for years, you can't leave me; you have been father and mother to me."

Dr. Lewis was a voracious reader. Outside of his professional field he enjoyed history most. After a busy day he would read for hours before retiring. His reading was particularly extensive in Egyptian history. He became a real Egyptologist. In addition to his reading he studied the great Egyptian dynasties by deciphering and classifying a vast number of scarabs. One of his favorite periods of history was that of the unification of Italy by Garibaldi. We can see reflected in this his interest in the bringing of people together in common causes. He believed in the unity of all peoples.

As he read history he lived in it. He pictured himself as a living participant in it. He once told his children of having dreamed that he was an Egyptian prince who in the dream was witnessing his own funeral. All the details were complete—the majestic trappings of the horses, hundreds of slaves, and thousands of his subjects.

When he finished his recital he said, "Who knows? Perhaps I *was* an Egyptian prince once upon a time." I do not wish to give the impression by telling of this dream that Dr. Lewis believed in reincarnation because I have no knowledge thereon, but I do know that he was a firm believer in a life hereafter.

Dr. Lewis was no mean Shakespearean scholar. His love of Shakespeare's works dated back to his school days when he studied English literature under Professor Spencer at Old Central High School in Buffalo. Speaking of Shakespeare recalls one of his favorite anecdotes. A countryman on a visit to the city was taken by a friend to see a Shakespearean tragedy enacted. At the end the friend asked, "Well, how did you like it?" The countryman replied, "Oh not very well. It was too full of quotations."

No small part of his reading was devoted to economics and civics. Whether this reading was the cause or the result of his effective work in the campaign to establish a commission form of government in Buffalo I do not know, but I do know that he was an important factor in this accomplishment. He also served for many years as a member of the Buffalo City Planning Commission. He was named by Governor Roswell P. Flower to the board of visitors of the New York State School for the Blind at Batavia and, reappointed by every succeeding governor, continued to serve until his death. He was president of it for 40 years.

It was my privilege to know Dr. Lewis as a friend and as one of his patients for over twenty-five years, and one of the things that stand out most clearly in my memory of him was the youthful enthusiasm with which he did everything. One could never at any time think of him as an old man. He was young in spirit and vigorous in action right up to the end. On his eighty-fifth birthday the Buffalo Evening *News* wrote of him as follows:

"At 85, Dr. Park Lewis will continue his amazingly active life for one so full of years. He will receive his usual long line of patients, just as he received their mothers and fathers. He will continue to probe the mysteries of blindness in humans and animals as a research problem. And he will keep on writing profound and interesting articles on the prevention and cure of blindness. Only this week he finished a paper on dreaded glaucoma."

When the Doctor was in his sixties, a lady who had married into a family whose eyes had been cared for by him for at least two generations came into his office for the first time. She said, "Is this Dr. Park Lewis?" "Yes, I am the Doctor," he replied. "Oh," said she, "I can't believe it, I have heard my husband's family talk about you so much, I expected to find a much older man." The Doctor leaned over and in a confiding tone said, "You know, Madam, I really am quite old." "Then my eyes must be much worse than I thought they were," she replied. Dr. Lewis loved to tell this story on himself and always his eyes would twinkle in quiet enjoyment.

It was the vitality in his dancing eyes that made you feel he was always young. A newspaper reporter in Buffalo once said of him—"Curiously enough, the eyes are the most striking thing about this noted eye doctor."

Dr. Lewis was a great music lover. He was active in the establishment of a municipal orchestra. He was constantly serving on committees to bring the great artists and great orchestras to Buffalo. In his home he enjoyed beyond measure listening to the excellent music furnished by his three daughters on their stringed instruments, accompanied by their mother at the piano. I considered it a great privilege to have been present on many of these occasions and I can vividly remember the delightful picture which this family made. At other times it would be he who entertained by reading aloud to us all. The best of books gained in beauty and interest through his reading.

Without intruding on the lives of his daughters, he made true friends of their friends. In spite of the difference in our ages, I always thought of him as a contemporary rather than a member of the older generation. That same youthful enthusiasm of which I have spoken made one feel just that. His conversation was always interesting, always elevating and inspiring. He was a true companion not only in the bosom of his family, but to all with whom he came in contact.

Dr. Lewis was a man of utter fairmindedness. It was hard for him to be a partisan although he was always a crusader for the right. One of his daughters has told me that his ability to see both

sides of a question often exasperated his family when their aroused emotions had made them partisans in a cause.

Dr. Lewis trusted people and they trusted him. His trust in people may have caused him many disappointments but it also inspired many to do fine things for humanity.

Men who achieve are often ruthless. There was nothing of ruthlessness in this great character and yet he accomplished.

His sense of humor was a great attribute. He had a delicate way of turning written or spoken thoughts into a humorous channel. He had a light touch. A short while back his twelve-year-old granddaughter said to him, "Granddaddy, do you know what I want you to leave me when you die?" "Why, no," he replied, "What could it be?" "Your sense of humor, granddaddy!"

His friends were legion throughout the world. Few men in this country have had such a wide international circle of friends as he. They admired his talents, they respected his character, they loved him.

Again I quote from the tribute of the Buffalo Association for the Blind:

"To have had the opportunity, as we all have had, to know him intimately, to have been near the man, to have met his frank eyes, to have heard his bell-like clearness of expression, his vibrant voice, with its endearing quality, to have known his calmness and sane judgment, his gentle yet strong character, his charm, and, beyond all else, his boundless courtesy, and his spirit of charity, is to know his greatness.

"He will always live."

In conclusion I want you to have a picture of another side of this truly great man, and in giving you this picture I will use his own words. Dr. Lewis meditated much on the meaning of time and space. I want to read you a poem written by him and published in the *New York Times* 19 years ago:

THE EVERLASTING

A ray from a star remote
Flashed into infinite space;
It sped with the speed of a thought
A measureless, limitless race.

Seasons had crept their rounds,
Years in eternity run,
Ere the ray with the speed of a thought
Had flashed by an outermost sun.

Yet on rushed the hurrying ray
Remote from the place of its birth—
Aeons bent weary with years,
Nor lingered an instant on earth—

But dashed in the blackness of space,
The ray with the speed of a thought;
In a race through space for the end of space—
Sought, but it found it not.

For over the outermost bounds,
Beyond the farthermost zone,
Glimmered the uttermost star of all—
And lo! it was its own.

Time has o'ertaken Time,
Space is of space as before—
For the race through space is an endless race,
Beyond limit of plummet or shore.

Light all pervading is
Itself its only goal;
The gleam in the beam is but a dream,
The ray is the light of the soul.

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Dr. Lewis Park

The Heritage left.

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Lewis, Park Dr.

AUTHOR

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